

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This case has been carefully reviewed and analyzed, and reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested.

DRAWING OBJECTION

The drawings were originally objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the netted racks must be shown or the features canceled from the claim. No new matter should be entered.

Responsive to this, applicant submits that two netted racks 30 are shown in Figs. 3-5, and three netted racks 30 are shown in Fig. 6. Thus, it is believed that the objection should be removed.

CLAIM OBJECTION

Claim 1 was originally objected to because of some informalities.

Responsive to this, claim 1 is amended carefully and completely, and it is believed that the objections should be removed.

CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 9, 10 and 12 were originally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Responsive to this, claims 9 and 10 are amended to change the "netted rack" to the --rack--. In addition, claim 12 has been deleted without traverse. Therefore, it is believed that, by the amendments, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, should be removed.

CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 1-12 were originally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Chen (US-6,364,138).

Responsive to this, claim 3 is deleted, and claim 1 is amended which is substantially the combination of original claims 1 and 3 so as to make the claimed invention more distinguishably patentable over the prior art reference cited by the Examiner. In addition, new claims 13 and 14 are added so as to make the claimed invention more distinguishably patentable over the prior art reference cited by the Examiner. Applicant also submits the following comments.

The claimed invention discloses "a shelf, comprising a plurality of support stands each having a circular cross-section and each having a periphery formed with six elongated flanges

and six arcuate connecting faces located between the flanges; the flanges being arranged in an annular shape to form a circular cross-sectional configuration; each of the flanges having two opposite sides each formed with a neck connected to a respective one of the arcuate connecting faces; and each of the flanges having a surface formed with a plurality of grooves” as disclosed in the amended claim 1.

With reference to the Chen reference, it disclosed a sectional rack comprising a plurality of vertical posts 20, a plurality of horizontal shelves 30, and a plurality of connecting members 40. Each of the vertical posts 20 has an I-shaped cross-section with two rectangular and width-expanded side portions 21 and a width-narrowed middle portion 22 extending between the two side portions 21. Each of the connecting members 40 has a U-shaped cross-section.

In comparison, in the Chen reference, each of the vertical posts 20 has an I-shaped cross-section, so that each of the vertical posts 20 does not have a circular cross-section.

Thus, the Chen reference does not teach “a plurality of support stands each having a circular cross-section” as disclosed in the amended claim 1 of the claimed invention.

In addition, in the Chen reference, each of the vertical posts 20 has two side portions 21 and two middle portions 22 between the two side portions 21.

Thus, the Chen reference does not teach “a plurality of support stands each having a periphery formed with six elongated flanges and six arcuate connecting faces located between the flanges” as disclosed in the amended claim 1 of the claimed invention.

Further, in the Chen reference, the two side portions 21 of each of the vertical posts 20 are opposite to each other to form an I-shaped cross-sectional configuration.

Thus, the Chen reference does not teach “the flanges being arranged in an annular shape to form a circular cross-sectional configuration” as disclosed in the amended claim 1 of the claimed invention.

Further, in the Chen reference, the two side portions 21 of each of the vertical posts 20 are opposite to each other to form an I-shaped cross-sectional configuration.

Thus, the Chen reference does not teach “the flanges are equally distant from each other to form an equally angular configuration” as disclosed in the amended claim 4 of the claimed invention.

Further, in the Chen reference, each of the two side portions 21 of each of the vertical posts 20 has a rectangular shape.

Thus, the Chen reference does not teach “each of the flanges has a dovetail-shaped cross-section” as disclosed in the amended claim 6 of the claimed invention.

Further, in the Chen reference, each of the two side portions 21 of each of the vertical posts 20 is width-expanded.

Thus, the Chen reference does not teach “each of the flanges has a tapered width gradually reduced from the periphery to the center of each of the support stands” as disclosed in the amended claim 7 of the claimed invention.

Further, in the Chen reference, the grooves 23 of the two side portions 21 of each of the vertical posts 20 are parallel with each other.

Thus, the Chen reference does not teach “the grooves of the flanges are arranged in a circular shape to form a circular cross-sectional configuration” as disclosed in the amended claim 8 of the claimed invention.

Further, in the Chen reference, the two side portions 21 of each of the vertical posts 20 are opposite to each other to form an I-shaped cross-sectional configuration.

Thus, the Chen reference does not teach “each of the six flanges of each of the support stands is protruded radially and outwardly from a center of each of the support stands for mounting a rack, so that any two of the six flanges of each of the support stands connect two racks which are arranged in an angular manner to form an angular configuration” as disclosed in the new added claim 13 of the claimed invention.

Further, in the Chen reference, the two side portions 21 of each of the vertical posts 20 are opposite to each other to form an I-shaped cross-sectional configuration.

Thus, the Chen reference does not teach “the six flanges of each of the support stands are equally distant from each other by sixty degrees so that the six flanges of each of the support stands surround the center of each of the support stands to form an equally angular configuration” as disclosed in the new added claim 14 of the claimed invention.

Therefore, from the above mentioned descriptions, it is apparent that the claimed invention has disclosed a shelf whose structure and function are quite different from and patentably distinguishable over that of the Chen reference. It is believed that the Chen reference does not provide the elements and objectives as are disclosed in the claimed invention.

Accordingly, for all of the above-mentioned reasons, it is believed that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) should be withdrawn, and the claims 1, 2, 4-11, 13 and 14 should be

allowable.

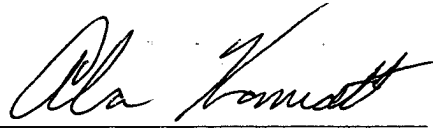
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the application is now in a condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. If any points remain in issue, which the Examiner feels could best be resolved by either a personal or a telephone interview, he is urged to contact Applicant's attorney at the exchange listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Po-Ju Chen

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By



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